SUMMARY OF THE
REGULATORY COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING
April 12, 2000

The Regulatory Coordination Committee of the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) met by teleconference on Wednesday, April 12, 2000. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Dr, Michael Miller at 12:40 PM EST. The agenda and supporting materials had been distributed previously to the Committee members by electronic mail. Actions items can be found in Attachment A. A list of participants can be found in Attachment B.

A quorum was not present so the minutes of the NELAC interim meeting and the February 23, 2000 teleconference could not be approved.

Discussion Items

- Infrastructure
  - Auditor training: Two sessions held during March/April, one in Maryland and one in California. There are no firm plans for future courses. The Accrediting Authorities hope that assessor training will be offered, at a minimum annually.
  - The national data base is not developed. This is causing problems for the state programs.
  - State Regulations have been collected but have not been edited so that they can be posted on the web site.
  - A revised NELAP Laboratory Application was developed by Dr. Miller and sent to Ms. Hankins for posting on the WEB site. They were not posted on the web-site due to problems with EPA's web management.

- Regulatory Agenda – Mr. Clemons will assist Dr. Kircher

- EPA Quality System – Sent to Quality Systems Committee

- Two new members were appointed to the committee….Randall Querry (A2LA), Richard Redding (EPA)

- The Committee needs a voting and a non-voting member for appointment at NELAC VI at the end of June. Committee members need to recruit and send names to Dr. Miller.

- Scope of Accreditation discussion
  - Joint meeting with Program, Policy and Structure, will be held at NELAC VI. The Regulatory Coordination committee will meet afterwards.
  - Michael Miller wants to keep Program and Discipline in the scope.
  - Discussion on analyte requirement:
    Mr. Avery points out that analyte isn't required by any federal regulations. The only federally required certification program is SDWA, which only requires

method accreditation. Dr. Miller pointed out that the facility regulations are based on analyte. Many State accreditation programs exist to support regulation of analyte levels.

- Discussion on Program:
  Dr. Miller prefers keeping program. Office of Solid Waster prefers matrix. What about the air program? Mr. Avery, Mr. Clemons, and Ms. Taunton prefer using matrix instead of program. Mr. Avery argues that program is an artificial political construct, whereas matrix affects technical quality. Mr.Querry felt that it is big step to do all at once, but might be acceptable for an end product.
- Discussion on Method and Analyte:
  Mr. Avery discussed that methods should be defined in order to be flexible for both PBMS and specified methods. Mr. Clemons offered that labs focus on methods or analytes as defined by data as guided by regulations. Ms. Taunton said that problems with secondary accreditations for additional analytes are currently occurring. No two states have the same analyte list. "Analyte" is an issue currently with reciprocity with their labs. Some states work with it, others will not. Dr. Miller asked if cleanup methods are being accredited or only determinative methods. Ms. Taunton commented that Florida accredits "method as modified". Dr. Miller asked the committee what should be discussed at NELAC VI, and commented that New Jersey is uncomfortable not maintaining "program" in the scope of accreditation. Mr. Avery offered that we've got the one scope of accreditation (Program-Matrix-Method) that addresses all NELAC issues, that was proposed at NELAC V. Why reinvent a new one? Ms. Smith asked if labs could list analytes on certificate, but be accredited at the method level, not analyte? Dr, Miller will canvas the committee to see if the George proposal shall be presented at the joint meeting.

Meeting adjourned 2:00 pm Eastern Standard Time

Attachment B

PARTICIPANTS
REGULATORY COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 12, 2000

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